



## Agricultural Engineering Centre

Mr. Rob. Breen,  
Institution of Engineers, Australia,  
11 National Circuit,  
BARTON. A.C.T. 2600

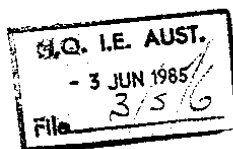
Roy Watts Road,  
Glenfield, N.S.W. 2167  
Australia

Our Reference: GRQ:AM

Telephone: (02) 605 1511

Telex: AA20199

7th May, 1985.



*File on 3/6/13*

re: COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES FOR DESIGNATED  
HISTORIC SITES IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

Dear Rob,

On behalf of the National Committee on Agricultural Engineering, it is my pleasure to forward the following to the National Panel on Engineering Heritage for consideration of the installation of three (3) commemorative plaques during 1985 in Victoria.

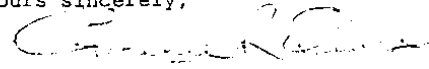
These commemorate

- (1) Hugh Victor McKay and the McKay grain harvesting developments - for location in the Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.
- (2) Furphy Water Cart - for location in a park in Shepparton.
- (3) Frederick York Wolseley's mechanical shearing handpiece - for location of plaque on building in Melbourne.

The appropriate background material, wording of the plaques and site approval documentation is enclosed.

When the Engineering Heritage Panel meets and decides on the suitability of these plaques, they should then give consideration to appropriate officers who can be made available to participate in the formal unveiling proceedings of each plaque. In the case of the Wolseley plaque, it may be appropriate for an officer of the Institution to complete the application form to the Victorian Historic Buildings Council for approval to proceed. I have not taken any action on this aspect of the program.

Yours sincerely,

  
DR. GRAEME R. QUICK,  
Director of Agricultural Engineering

*Copied to Heritage Plaque  
Sub Committee:-  
Prof R. Whitmore  
Dr D. Fraser  
Mr A.E. Mundy.  
6 JUN 85 For action*

Encl.

File 3/6/13

HISTORIC ENGINEERING LANDMARK/MARKER DETAILSNATURE OF SITE/OBJECT (Engine House, Machine etc)

Farm Smithy

NAME OF SITE/OBJECT

H.V. McKay Smithy

LOCATION

Map and Grid Reference

Address:

Museum of Victoria  
Melway Map 1. L6

304 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER

As above

DETAILS OF PLAQUE

As supplied by I.E. Aust.

HOW INSTALLED/MOUNTED (on wall, on cairn, etc)

Mounted on the wooden base of the Smithy exhibition

DETAILS ON AN UNVEILING CEREMONY

When? During opening of Rural Gallery of Victoria exhibition  
 Where? at the Museum on 29 October 1985  
 Who Attended?

PUBLICITY COVERAGEPLAQUE MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY(Person or organisation ~~Accepting~~ accepting responsibility for the up-keep of the plaque)

Museum of Victoria

IEAUST NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS FILE ON SUBJECT

PLAQUE - HUGH VICTOR MCKAY  
New South Wales Government

## Agricultural Engineering Centre

Roy Watts Road,  
Glenfield, N.S.W. 2167  
Australia



The Director,  
Museum of Victoria,  
304 Swanston Street,  
MELBOURNE. VICTORIA. 3000

Our Reference: GRQ

ATTENTION MR. ROBERT EDWARDS.

Telephone: (02) 605 1511

Telex: AA20199

Dear Mr. Edwards,

The Agricultural Engineering Committee of The Institution of Engineers, Australia, is working on Bicentennial project to place bronze memorial plaques at strategic locations to commemorate noteworthy achievements in Agricultural Engineering.

We wish to include a plaque on Hugh Victor McKay in this series. I have discussed the matter with my good friend, Martin Hallett with a view to the possibility of siting an official plaque from the Institution of Engineers on or near the original McKay Smithy, within the Museum of Victoria. Martin felt that the suggestion has merit and that I should accordingly raise the matter for your formal consideration. The timing for an unveiling would be say 3-5 months from now, and there would be no cost to the Museum, beyond that of providing the setting on which the plaque would be attached. The proposed wording on the plaque follows:

### "DESIGNATED HISTORIC LANDMARK IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

In this farm Smithy, originally located at Drummartin, Victoria, HUGH VICTOR MCKAY produced his first harvesting machine which in one operation could strip the heads, thresh, winnow and bag off the grain. The first Commercial McKay stripper harvesters were sold in 1885 and lead to the development of the Sunshine Harvesters. These machines made a significant contribution to the development of Australian Agriculture.

DEDICATED BY THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA. 1985."

Your earliest comments and evaluation of this project will be appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

DR. GRAEME R. QUICK,  
Director of Agricultural Engineering

Department of Agriculture

# MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

## Science and Technology Division - Spotswood Project

328 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia

Telephone: 653.6480

Fax: 653.6423

RS 019

8 February 1991

I.E. Aust. N.O.

15 FEB 1991

3/6/92

The College Secretary  
The Institution of Engineers Australia  
11 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

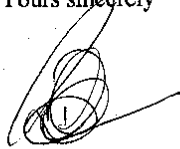
Dear Sir/Madam

In 1985 the Institution granted a plaque to the Museum of Victoria to commemorate the historic significance of the H V McKay smithy. It was located next to the smithy in the Rural Victoria exhibition at the Museum.

Recently the exhibition was dismantled including the smithy itself to make way for a new exhibition in the gallery and the plaque was consequently removed for safe keeping.


Under the terms of the agreement [Your ref: 3/6/13] the Museum of Victoria undertook to maintain the plaque. If the Institution is agreeable, the Museum will keep the plaque with the smithy until such time as the building may be re-erected and the plaque can be re-instated next to it.

Yours sincerely



Roger Cummins  
Curator - Rural Science

Checked with Ken McInnes  
CH NCEH, who agreed.

 25/2/91

Our Ref: 3/6/52

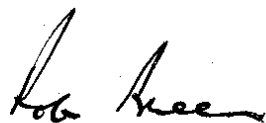
26 February 1991

Mr Roger Cummins  
Curator - Rural Science  
Science and Technology Division  
- Spotswood Project  
Museum of Victoria  
328 Swanston Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Cummins,

With regard to your letter RS019 of 8 February 1991, The Institution of Engineers, Australia agrees that the McKay Smithy Historic Engineering Marker plaque be kept with the dismantled smithy until such time as the building may be re-erected and the plaque re-instated next to it.

Yours sincerely



R.A. Breen  
Executive Officer

RAB:md

c.c. K.G. McInnes  
R.L. Whitmore

Cummins.BOE